THE LOYALTY SOCIETY.

A

COPY

OF THE

RULES, ORDERS, and REGULATIONS,

OF THE

LOYALTY SOCIETY,

Held at the Houſe of WILLIAM THORMAN, Inn keeper in *Staindrop* in the County of Durham, the Twenty-ſixth day of December, in the Year of our Lord. One Thouſand Seven Hundred and Ninety Three, for the Mutual Relief and Maintenance of the Members thereof, in old Age, Sickneſs and Infirmity, purſuant to an Act of Parliament in that Caſe made and provided.

BARNARDCASTLE:
PRINTED BY T. CRAMPTON.

A COPY OF THE RULES, &c.

IT IS AGREED by between and amongſt all and every of us, who have ſet our Names hereto, that from the Date hereof, we enter into a firm League, Covenant, and Agreement, to eſtabliſh a ſure, laſting and loving SOCIETY, for the ſupport of ourſelves and families, when ever it may pleaſe Almighty God to afflict us with decay of Strength or Old Age and to provide us with a decent Funeral at Death, and that We and each and every of Us at all times hereafter will well and faithfully obey, fulfil and keep all and ſingular the Articles, Rules, Orders, and Regulations as follows, (that is to ſay)

ARTICLE I.

TO make an Entry in a Regiſter Book, to be kept for that Purpoſe, of the Dates, Names, and Places of Abode, of the ſeveral Members admitted, and to meet in the Society Room every Saturday Monthly, from the date hereof, at ſeven o'Clock in the Evening, and depart at nine; each Member ſpending Two-pence.

II.

That every perſon ſhall pay upon Admiſſion, One Shilling and Sixpence, and afterwards Eightpence a Month, and whoever lives within Ten Miles of STAINDROP, and does not appear when called

on or ſend his money by a Member every Quarterly Meeting, ſhall forfeit Sixpence; and if every Member does not clear the Books every Six Months, and pay his other dues without diſturbance, he or they ſhall be excluded this Society.

III.

To have a Box with three different Locks and Keys, the Maſter of the Houſe where the Box is kept, to have one, and each of the Stewards one, who ſhall never open the ſame, without the Foreman of the Committee be preſent, except it be at Public Meetings.—The Maſter of the Houſe to give ſuch ſecurity to the Clerk and Treaſurer, by Bond, or otherwiſe for the ſafe Cuſtody thereof, as ſhall be approved of by a Majority of the Members, and that it ſhall not be removed from thence without ſome juſt and reaſonable Cauſe.

IV.

None to be admitted Members of this Society, but Natives of Great Britain, and reſident within Eight Miles of Staindrop, more than ſixteen, and under Forty years of Age, (except agreed to be voted in) of good Reputation, perfect Health, and free from all natural Infirmities.—Should any perſon obtain Admittance into this Society by falſe Pretences, contrary to the true Intent and Meaning of this Article, if it be clearly proved againſt him, by two credible Witneſſes, he ſhall be excluded, and the Money that he has paid, ſhall become forfeited to the Society.

ARTICLE V.

V.

Every Member that enters into this Society, muſt remain in it one full Year from the date of his Entrance, before he be entitled to any benefit from the Box.—And then if by Divine Providence through Age or any other Accident, (not occaſioned by fighting or any other unlawful way,) he becomes ſick, lame, or blind, and thereby rendered incapable of getting a Livelihood, he ſhall receive Five Shillings a week, for one year.—But if a Member continues to be afflicted longer than a year, then the allowance ſhall be Three Shillings a week, ſo long as he is ſick, or infirm. Alſo if any Member be diſguiſed in Liquor, during the time he is relieved by the Box, for every like offence he ſhall loſe one week's Salary.

VI.

It is agreed upon, that any Member of this Society, that falls ſick, or happens any misfortune abroad, muſt in the firſt week, ſend a proper Certificate thereof, ſigned by the Miniſter, Churchwardens and Overſeers of the Pariſh where he is, otherwiſe be entitled to no benefit.—For the funeral of any Member not laying violent hands on himſelf, his Legal Repreſentative ſhall be intitled to Five Pounds from the Box, to bury him with, the ſame allowance ſhall be made for a Member dying abroad, if a proper Certificate of his Death ſignified as above, be produced to the Society.

Any Member who has one Wife, that dies in his Life time, ſhall receive from the Box, the Sum

of

of Two Pounds to bury her.—Any Member that has received the ſaid Two Pounds, his legal Repreſentative ſhall only be intitled to Five Pounds to bury him. And a Member that is a Batchelor, (previous to his Death) may appoint his neareſt Relation to receive the ſaid Sum of Seven Pounds to bury him.

VII.

The ſeveral Members of this Society, ſhall ſerve the ſeveral Offices of Steward and Warden, according to Seniority in the Regiſter Book, or depute one to officiate for him, or forfeit One Shilling — The ſaid Officers to be choſen quarterly, that is two Stewards and a Warden. The Stewards ſhall viſit the Sick weekly, if in town, and further take care that all juſt dues on account of the Society be paid, or forfeit Two Shillings.—They ſhall likewiſe deliver in every Monthly Meeting, a juſt and clear Account of all diſburſments, and for whoſe uſe, or forfeit for ſuch neglect, Five Shillings.

VIII.

A Clerk and Treaſurer for keeping the Accounts of this Society, ſhall be appointed yearly, on the Twenty-ſixth day of December, out of the Members by the Majority of the Society preſent, in whoſe name all Securities for money belonging the ſaid Society ſhall be taken.

IX.

To have a Feaſt yearly, on the Twenty-ſixth day

day of December, each member to pay towards the expence thereof, One Shilling, and ſpend Sixpence. To meet in the Society Room at Ten o'Clock in the forenoon, to anſwer to their names as called on, and go to Church, or forfeit Sixpence. Every Member to take his ſeat at Table, according to Seniority, or forfeit Sixpence. To depart friendly and ſoberly, or forfeit Five Shillings each Offender. At this Meeting a Committee ſhall be appointed for a year, for the due care of the Stock, to conſiſt of twelve Men, and alſo to determine all diſputes that may ariſe; the Foreman of the ſaid Committee to examine all Accounts of the ſaid Society, and ſee that there be no fraud or embezzlement of the Property of this Society.

X.

That at any meeting to be held monthly, quarterly, or yearly, the Treaſurer and Stewards for the time being, (ſhall if required) declare to the Members preſent, what ſum or ſums of money is then in the Box, and if the Members or the major part of them then there, ſhall think that they can with Propriety lend the ſame or any part thereof out on Security, or buy in Bank Stock for the ſaid Society; then and in that caſe, the Treaſurer and Stewards ſhall by the direction of the major part of the Society at ſuch meeting, lend the ſame or buy Stock in the name of the Treaſurer for the time being, for the uſe of the ſaid Society; and the Intereſt, Dividends, and Proceeds thereof, ſhall be brought to Account by ſuch Treaſurer, and ſhall be applied to, and for the uſe of the ſaid Society.

XI.

That in order to keep up the Stock of the ſaid Society at the death of any Member, each of the ſurviving Members ſhall ſubſcribe towards it One Shilling, but if the Stock of the ſaid Society, is *Two Hundred Pounds* and upwards, this Article to ceaſe as long as it continues ſo.

XII.

In order to preſerve Unanimity in this Society, any Member that occaſions or cauſes any quarrel in the Club Room, or carries it out of it, ſhall forfeit Sixpence, and if they proceed to blows, each Offender to forfeit Five Shillings. If any Member ſwears, propoſes gaming or wagers in the Society Room, ſhall forfeit Threepence. If any Member keeps not ſilence, after he has been three times called to by an Officer, ſhall forfeit Sixpence. All Fines ſpecified in this or any other Article, ſhall be entered as Stock in the Fund of this Society, if not otherwiſe herein particularly directed.

XIII.

Whoever reflects upon a Brother Member, in or out of the Society Room, for being any way chargeable to the Society, ſhall for the firſt offence forfeit one Shilling, for the ſecond, two Shillings, and for the third offence, five Shillings, or be excluded.

XIV.

None of the Members ſhall divulge or expoſe

any Affairs of this Society under the Penalty of One Shilling.

XV.

If any Member of this Society be called abroad, and be obliged to live in any other part of the Country above Ten miles from Staindrop, he may have the Privilege of paying his aforesaid proportion yearly without fine and receive the same benefits as specified in the Sixth Article.

XVI.

The Stewards and Warden to Attend at Seven O'Clock in the Evening each Meeting night, or send their Key and Appoint some of the members to Officiate for them, who shall stay till all Business be finish'd and the Box lock'd or each Offender to forfeit One Shilling. No member to be in two Benefit Societies of the like Nature.

XVII.

If any Member or Members of this Society, appear in the Club Room, on any Monthly Meeting, and does not Pay his dues when called on by the proper Officer, he shall forfeit Two Shillings and Sixpence.

XVIII.

If any Member or Members of this Society be notoriously Immoral or Irregular, or refuse to allow legal charges to one sued on the Society's Account

Account.—If any refuſe to pay One Penny a week more than uſual, when the Box is reduced,—If any pretend to alter any of theſe Articles without juſt cauſe, or if any comply not with the majority of the Members when any thing not contained in theſe Articles have been fairly voted, he or they ſhall be excluded this Society.

XIX.

Any Member dying before he has been one year in the Society, all the money that he has paid into the Stock of this Society, ſhall be returned to his Widow, or any other perſon properly authoriſed to receive the ſame.

XX.

If any Member be paſt Buſineſs, ſo that he receives his pay, yet if he be capable to fetch water, milk, or any thing of the ſame like nature ſhall it be lawful:—But if he feign or counterfeit himſelf ſick on purpoſe to receive Benefit from the Box, and a ſuſpicion ariſe, an Apothecary or Surgeon ſhall be ſent to examine him at the expence of the Society, and if found guilty, he ſhall for ever be excluded this Society.

XXI.

If any Member of this Society ſhould at any time be convicted of Felony, in any of his Majeſty's Courts of Judicature, he ſhall on ſuch Conviction, be excluded this Society.

XXII.

If any Diſpute ſhould at any time ariſe, touch-

ing things relating this Society, and not mentioned in theſe Articles, it ſhall be decided by a majority of the Members preſent, and every one may give his Sentiments thereon, one at a time in as few words as poſſible, ſo as to cauſe no Confuſion.

XXIII

It is agreed that the number of Members ſhall not exceed Two Hundred, and the Society ſhall continue ſo long as three Members will hold the ſame according to the Tenor of theſe Articles.

XXIV.

If at any time any Member ſhould contrive, endeavour, or ſpeak of breaking up or ſeperating this Society, or ſhould ever conſult with any other Member or Members to divide or ſhare the Money or other Effects of this Society, not only him that firſt propoſed it, but likewiſe all thoſe that vote in Vindication of ſuch proceedings, or ever enter into any Combination, in order to effect any ſuch deſign, ſhall be fined Five Shillings each, or be excluded, as the majority of the Members preſent ſhall think proper.

XXV.

If any Member appear drunk at any Meeting, he ſhall forfeit Three-pence,—If any call for any Liquor or Tobacco, or ſmoaks Tobacco without leave of the Stewards, ſhall for each offence, forfeit Three-pence.—If at a bye Meeting upon occaſion, any of the Committee do not attend at the

the hour appointed, having received notice from the Warden the night before, (without he be ſick or from home) he or they ſhall forfeit Sixpence.

CONCLUSION.

Laſtly, we the ſaid Members do hereby jointly and ſeverally conſent to promiſe, undertake, and agree to and with each other, to abide by, obey, perform, fulfil, and execute all and ſingular, the Articles, Rules, Orders, and Regulations, herein before particularly mentioned and contained. As Witneſs our Hands, the day and year firſt above written.

(Signed) *Ralph Heron*—Clerk and Treaſurer, and 81 Members.

(Indorſed)

Durham (to wit.) } AT the General Quarter Seſſions of the Peace holden at the City of Durham, in and for the ſaid County, on Wedneſday the fifteenth day of *January*, in the year of our Lord, One Thouſand Seven Hundred and Ninety Four, before *Sir John Eden Baronet*, *Richard Richardſon*, *George Maclellan*, *Charles Egerton*, and ſeveral others, their fellows, his Majeſty's Juſtices of the Peace for the ſaid County.—The Reſolutions, Rules, Orders, & Regulations within written, were exhibited to the Juſtices of the Peace aſſembled at this Seſſions, and after due Examination thereof, allowed and confirmed.

(Signed) JOHN EDEN, RICHARD RICHARDSON, GEORGE MACLELLAN, CHARLES EGERTON. } Juſtices of the Peace.

GEORGE PEARSON, Clerk of the Peace.

MEMBER's NAMES.

Ralph Heron
Joſeph Smith
Joſeph Dodds
George Hodgſon
William Hardy
Thomas Armſtrong
Francis Walker
George Nickers
Benjamin Todd
John Bousfield
Thomas Langton
John Chamberlain
John Tinkler
George Walker
Thomas Coulſon
Edward Hodgſon

Thomas Thompſon
Robert Patton
John Cockfield
Thomas Jobling
John Nicholſon
Thomas Kidſon
George Pearſon
Michael Garmanſway
Joſeph Vickers
Richard Bousfield
George Trotter
Nathan Kiplin
Caleb Grainger
William Bell
William Walker
Elijah Teaſdle
John Trotter
John Wrangham
John Brownleſs
Charles Garfoot
Thomas Hodgſon
George Nicholſon
George Tayes
Ralph Ord
Thomas Patriſon
John Alderſon
James Colling
George Langſtaff
Robert Wouldhave
Robert Labron
George Dixon
Francis Harker
Joſeph Taylor
Thomas Pearſon
John Watſon
William Blakeſton
Francis Robſon
Thomas Jervis
John Merrill
Robert Hodgſon
John Moſſes
Robert Stephenſon

Henry Langſtaff
George Alderſon
William Jackſon
Thomas Alderſon
William Bousfield
George Iley
Iacob Kiplin
George Gibſon
Robert Bowes
William Bowes
Thomas Farrer
Iohn Taylor
Joſeph Todd
Cuthbert How
Robert Yallowby
William Wilſon
Thomas Walker
Francis How
William Oates
William Thompſon
William Parnaby
Ralph Eles
George Joblin
George Auld
William Jackſon
George Wake
Thomas Fidler
Charles Garfoot
Joſeph Hymer
Thomas Langſtaff
Richard Middleton
Iohn Miller
Thomas Garget
George Eles
George Harbron
Robert Stamp
Robert Walker
Edward Ord
Thomas Vaſey
George Vaſey
Henry Brignal

FINIS.